

# UNTO YOU

FEBRUARY, 2011



Homer United Methodist Church

## Let's Make It a Great Year

By *Charles Martindell*

"To everything there is a season... and a time for every purpose under heaven." - Ecclesiastes 3:1

The New Year has begun and it might feel like a year's worth of planning has happened already! Here are a few highlights that we look forward to:

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Easter Sunday is April 24<sup>th</sup>
- The Alaska United Methodist Conference will meet in Homer, June 3-5
- A United Methodist college-age Volunteers In Mission (VIM) team from Oklahoma will be with us to do a Vacation Bible School for children in late June
- A church VIM team from Pennsylvania will be with us in late July to do a Soccer Camp for children of the Homer community
- Christmas Eve is on a Saturday this year (please note that Christmas Eve and Christmas day continue to be December 24 and 25... at least we can count on some things!). With the turn out at last year's Christmas Eve service, we are considering how to once again schedule 2 services this year.

On top of these special happenings, ongoing ministries and activities continue all year long. Our Outreach area continues to develop the Free Community meal ministry that began last fall. Our Nurture area coordinates much of the life of the church. Would you believe they are already talking about next Christmas... let alone this Easter! Their ministry focus includes music, monthly Pot Lucks, small groups fellowship gatherings, and more. Besides all that are the various administrative areas of the church (Trustees, Finance Committee, the work of our Office staff, our continued "Final Push" program to fully complete the Building project... we get the idea!).

From my perspective as pastor of the church, what will make 2011 a truly great year includes all these many areas of our shared life and ministry. But even more important, is how God is moving in our hearts and lives in the midst of everything that is going on. May our Lord provide the grace we need to pay attention to God in the midst of many activities, challenges and joys? May we grow in our conscious awareness of God even as we plan and work hard. And most of all, may we stay in touch with the good news about God's love for us and for all the world through Jesus Christ-- so that we know what it means to share God's love with each other, and with all who we meet!

### In this issue of the **UNTO YOU** Newsletter...

- Special Financial Update (see insert)
- Our Next ALL CHURCH Potluck Meal is February 20th
- Children's Church-School Update
- "Final Push" Progress
- February Church Calendar
- Celebrating NEW BIRTH
- 2011 Ministry and Church Leadership

**ALL-CHURCH POT LUCK MEAL... Coming February 20th**

- Sail on the good ship Friendship
- On the Sea of Good Fellowship
- February 20 – starting right after our morning worship.

Let's all mark our calendars now and plan to join for this celebration and fun. This meal is scheduled for only a few days past Valentine's Day. What fun ways will we mark "Friendship Month" and a day that's all about love? Count on some fun together, and plan to bring something to share! Our fun will be geared toward our children... and to the "child in all of us"!! See you there!

## **Children's Church-School Update**

All children who attend Children's church during worship are invited to remain in worship on the first Sunday of each month. The first Sunday of the month is when we share in a special worship service to remember Jesus and the last supper he shared with his friends before going to the cross. By including our children, they have an opportunity to be included in our shared remembering. But equally important, communion is a special time when the whole church comes together to celebrate as the *family of God*. Extra clipboards and activities will be available for the children to use during the worship hour. Teachers are still needed on the remaining Sundays of the months. Please consider this ministry opportunity and sign up on the door leading into the Orange Room. The topics for the next few months are on the teachings of Jesus. Thank you to everyone who helps our Children's ministry grow.

## **Final Push Update**

The "Final Push" is what we are calling our efforts to bring the Building Project to full completion. One part of our plan to reach this goal is a \$100,000 capital fund drive. As of January 23, 2011 we are over half way there! Here is where things stand:

Pledged over 3 years:	51,867.
Given so far:	46,905.

## **Celebrating NEW BIRTH**

Congratulations to Jay and Erica Marley on the birth of Andrew David who was born on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Andrew is welcomed home by older brothers Zachary and Weston. The whole church joins in celebrating the birth, along with grandparents: Bill and Judy Marley, David and Susan Oesting, and Great Grandmothers: Lucile Golitko and Caroline Seymour.

## **2011 Ministry and Church Leadership**

Our thanks to everyone who is serving in the many leadership areas of the church. **A 2011 Church Leadership booklet is now available in the Entry area of the church.** There are many ways for everyone to be involved in the on-going ministries and new ministries that make up the life of this church. Interested in helping host a Sunday Fellowship Hour? Contact the church office. Willing to help with the important hospitality of greeting worshippers as they arrive on Sunday morning? Contact Franco or Caroline Venuti. Interested in taking a turn with the Bible readings on a Sunday morning? Contact the pastor. And perhaps most importantly, if you feel a nudge from God about a ministry you have some passion for... if you have a dream about something God can do in you and in the lives of our community... WE WANT TO HELP. A good first step is to share your dream with the pastor, and we'll pray about enlarging the circle from there.